

Redding, CT, EPA Smart Growth Achievement Award Winner

The US Environmental Protection Agency presented the prestigious National Award for Smart Growth Achievement to the town of Redding, CT, for the Georgetown Land Development Company project at the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill. The award distinguishes exceptional approaches to development which benefit the economy, public health, and the environment.

This successful four year effort in Redding brought together a private developer, local and state government, and public participation throughout the entire planning process. The result of this collaborative effort is a remarkable New England village and a new model for developments nationwide. According to Mr. Stephen Soler, President of the Georgetown Land Development Company, "This is a great opportunity to showcase the former Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill site and highlight the benefits of working proactively with the community... Our approach has been very inclusive and the result will be an idyllic place to live and visit. It is an opportunity to show first hand the benefits and successes that are possible with public/private partnerships that encourage community input."

Georgetown Land Development Company, a socially conscious real estate development firm, owns the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill site. As owners of the 55 +/- acre site, GLDC believes that it is time for a new vision of Georgetown guided by the principles of sustainable, "green" development. The village of Georgetown will include a pedestrian-friendly environment, featuring a village center with open public spaces and easy access to public transportation such as the new Georgetown Train Station, with access to New York City. In addition, the plan calls for a diverse community of single family houses, town houses, affordable senior housing, and artist-style lofts as well as other improvements such as a renovation of historically significant structures, a hydroelectric dam and power plant, including photovoltaics and green roofs.

Natalie Ketcham, First Selectman of the Town of Redding, remarked, "This is an important day for Redding and for all of Connecticut because we have a new model for making the idea of Smart Growth a reality and creating environmentally friendly, fiscally sound, uniquely New England communities."

Senator Lieberman said, "When completed, the Georgetown Brownfield Redevelopment Project will have transformed the Gilbert & Bennett

site in Georgetown into a model of environmentally sustainable development and smart growth. The accessibility of all aspects of this project by pedestrians - from residential to retail- will greatly contribute to the small-town feel that makes Redding - and so many other Connecticut towns - desirable places to live, work and raise a family. Commerce, culture and community will all be within walking distance."